

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /064 W

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8889

INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD: PASS AMBASSADOR OSBORN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BM, UN

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF U THANT'S REMAINS

1. STUDENTS AND ACTIVIST MONKS HOLDING U THANT'S BODY APPEAR ON VERGE OF BURYING IT ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS AT SITE OF OLD RUSU BUILDING, WHERE SIMPLE MEMORIAL HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED BY TREMENDOUS OUTPOURING OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND VOLUNTARY LABOR. EARLIER, GUB OFFER (NOMINALLY BY RANGOON MUNICIPALITY) OF BURIAL SITE SOUTH OF SHWE DAGON, WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN REQUESTED BY U THANT'S FAMILY, WAS PROMPTLY TURNED DOWN BY STUDENTS, WHO ARE DEMANDING OFFICIAL GUB ENDORSEMENT OF OFFER, STATE FUNERAL, AMNESTY FOR ACTIVISTS AND RELEASE OF STUDENTS ALREADY ACCEPTED, AND RESTORATION OF TEACHING FREEDOMS AND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS. THERE HAS BEEN NO GUB RESPONSE AND NO ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH PROCEEDINGS AT CAMPUS.

2. IN MID-AFTERNOON, THREE TO FOUR THOUSAND PEOPLE WERE IN ORDERLY LINES AWAITING ACCESS TO CAMPUS TO CONTRIBUTE MONEY, MATERIAL, OR VOLUNTARY LABOR AT MEMORIAL SITE. STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE MADE UP ONLY A MINORITY OF THESE PEOPLE, WHO OBVIOUSLY

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INCLUDED WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF ORDINARY BURMESE. HAND-LETTERED

SLOGANS AND POSTERS ANNOUNCED CAMPUS OPEN TO "WORKERS AND PEOPLE", CALLED FOR LABOR CONTRIBUTIONS, AND PLEDGED TO ALLOW BLOOD TO BE SHED (IN CASE GUB INTERVENED WITH FORCE). MANY MORE PEOPLE ARE ARRIVING IN AREA OR ALREADY INSIDE CAMPUS. REPORTEDLY OVER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND KYATS (U.S. \$21,000) HAD BEEN COLLECTED BY MORNING OF DECEMBER 7 IN PUBLIC DONATIONS.

3. OUTPOURING OF PUBLIC SYMPATHY, WHICH CONSTITUTES A QUIET BUT UNMISTAKABLE MOVEMENT OF PROTEST AGAINST GUB, HAS BEEN FACILITATED BY WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN INTELLIGENT DECISION BY ACTIVISTS TO CUT DOWN ON ANTI-GOVERNMENT POLEMICS AND PERSONALITIES IN SPEECHES DECEMBER 6 AND 7, INSTEAD EMPHASIZING EULOGIES OF U THANT AND WORLD PEACE AND APPEALS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS. AT SAME TIME, ANTI-GOVERNMENT THEME REMAINS PRESENT, AS STUDENT DEMANDS AND POSTERS SHOW.

4. CONDITIONS REMAIN NORMAL ELSEWHERE IN RANGOON, WITH NO SECURITY FORCES IN EVIDENCE. IT APPEARS GUB WILL ALLOW INTERMENT TO PROCEED, AFTER WHICH STUDENTS AND ACTIVISTS WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO DISPERSE, SATISFIED WITH A NOTABLE VICTORY OVER GOVERNMENT, OR TO REMAIN IN OCCUPATION OF CAMPUS TO PRESS THEIR POLITICAL DEMANDS.

5. ADVANCE PLANNING BY STUDENTS AND MONKS, AND CONTINUING EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION BY LEADERS AS YET UNKNOWN, HAS BEEN APPARENT. STUDENTS AND ONLOOKERS HAVE BEEN ORDERLY, EXCEPT FOR EFFORTS, MANY OF THEM SUCCESSFUL, TO PREVENT PICTURE-TAKING BY PRESS OR AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS. SUCH PICTURES, IT IS CORRECTLY ASSUMED, MAY BE USED BY AUTHORITIES TO IDENTIFY LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS. AT SAME TIME, FOREIGNERS SUCH AS MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO TAKE PICTURES WITHOUT INTERFERENCE.

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